

ABSTRACT

A groping operation apparatus is provided in which a command action can be specified by groping operation in reliable way. The  
5 groping operation apparatus includes a display device 11 having a display screen 25; a touch panel 17, which is provided on the display screen, for outputting the positional information indicating a contact point on the touch panel that is touched by the operator; specifying means 13 for specifying an action commanded by the operator  
10 touching the touch panel in accordance with the positional information; and control means 15 for outputting a control signal in accordance with an output of the specifying means. The specifying means detects the contact point moved from one end portion of the touch panel to another end portion, with the end portions located at  
15 four corner areas of the touch panel, on the basis of the positional information. The action commanded by the operator is specified from a movement start end portion and a movement termination end portion of the detected contact point.